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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
09/975,797	10/11/2001	Michael L. Walker	194-15337CIP	9540		
24923	7590 05/20/2003					
	PAUL S MADAN			EXAMINER		
2603 AUGU	OSSMAN & SRIRAM, P STA, SUITE 700	C	TUCKER,	OCKER, PHILIP C		
HOUSTON,	TX 77057-1130		ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER			
			1732	5		
			DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

				A 3-1		
	Application No.	Applicant(s)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	11 /		
Office Action Summary	97579-	7 WA	LKER	<del></del>		
	Examiner		Group Art Unit			
	Y (V)	inth-	1/12			
-The MAILING DATE of this communication appears	on the cover sheet l	beneath the co	rrespondence addi	ress—		
Period for Reply	_					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO OF THIS COMMUNICATION.	EXPIRE3	MONTH(S	) FROM THE MAILI	NG DATE		
<ul> <li>Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a re</li> <li>If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default,</li> <li>Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by state</li> <li>Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mail term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</li> </ul>	ply within the statutory mexpire SIX (6) MONTHS tte, cause the application	ninimum of thirty (3 from the mailing d n to become ABAN	0) days will be consider ate of this communicati NDONED (35 U.S.C. § 13	red timely. on. 33).		
Status				•		
☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on			······································	·		
☐ This action is FINAL.						
<ul> <li>Since this application is in condition for allowance except accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935.</li> </ul>			o the ments is clos	sædin		
Disposition of Claims						
$\square$ Claim(s) 1, 3-13, 15-24	is/are p	_ is/are pending in the application.				
Of the above claim(s)		is/are w	vithdrawn from cons	ideration.		
• • •						
$\mathbb{Z}(\text{Claim(s)} = 1, 3 - 13, 15 - 22, 24)$						
⊠ Claim(s) 2-3		is/are o	bjected to.			
□ Claim(s)		are sub require	•	electi n		
Application Papers  ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on	is □ annmyad	•				
☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are object			<b>.</b> .			
☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.						
☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.	,					
•						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)	ndor 25115 C 6 110 /	(a) (d)				
<ul> <li>□ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority ut</li> <li>□ All □ Some* □ None of the:</li> </ul>	idei 33 0.3.C. 9 119 (	(a)—(u).				
☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been re	ceived.	,				
☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been re		No				
☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents						
in this national stage application from the International	Bureau (PCT Rule 17	.2(a))				
*Certified copies not received:				<b>.</b> •		
Attachment(s)						
Information Disclosure Stat m nt(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(	s). <u>2,3</u> $\Box$	Int rview Sumr	nary, PTO-413			
☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892		Notice f Inform	mal Patent Application	on, PTO-152		
☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Pat nt Drawing Revi w, PTO-948		Oth r				
Office Action Summary						

Application/Control Number: 09/975797 Page 2

**Art Unit: 1712** 

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### Claim Objections

1. Claims 9 and 21 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claims 9 and 21 fail to further limit the scope of parent claims 1 and 13, respectively.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in-
- (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
- (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Art Unit: 1712

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 13, 15-17, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomas (4836941).

Thomas teaches zinc halide and calcium halide brines having densities within the scope of the present invention, wherein amine salts and ammonium salts are used as corrosion inhibitors (see example 2 and Table V). The present invention si thus anticipated by Thomas.

4. Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-13, 15, 18, 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mishra et al. (5891225).

Mishra teaches a brine which comprises a halide salt, such as calcium chloride at levels of up to 42 weight percent (see claim 3 and examples), wherein a hydroxy carboxylate and polyalkoxylated amine are used as corrosion inhibitors (see claims 1 and 2). A brine level of 42% by weight would clearly be greater than the 11 lbs/gal taught in the claims.

5. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Beazley et al. (5935487).

Beazley teaches a brine which comprises calcium chloride, and a corrosion inhibitor of a diethanolamide product (see claims 1-4). Beazley exemplifies calcium chloride brines comprising 35 weight percent of the salt, which would clearly have greater than 11 lbs/gal density.

Application/Control Number: 09/975797 Page 4

Art Unit: 1712

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 7. Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18-20, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson (5846450).

Atkinson teaches a brine which comprises formates, such as potassium formate, and which can further comprise water, ammonia and corrosion inhibitors (see claims 4-8). The levels of as high as 70% potassium formate would result in brines within the density level of greater than 11 lbs/gal. Atkinson teaches that combinations of water and ammonia may be used as the solvent (claim 5). Atkinson differs in that a combination of water and ammonia as the solvent is not disclosed in an example. However, it would be obvious to vary the amount of ammonia and water as a combination solvent, including within the concentration ranges of the present invention, in the invention of Atkinson, given the teaching of Atkinson that such combinations may be used as solvents, and may be used to provide specific refrigerant vapor (column 3, lines 42-47).

Application/Control Number: 09/975797 Page 5

Art Unit: 1712

8. Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 63-199278 A.

JP 63-199278 teaches a heavy brine of calcium chloride which comprises ethylene diamine and/or diethylene triamine as corrosion inhibitors. JP '278 exemplifies the use of such corrosion inhibitors in brines of 29.9% calcium chloride, which are approximately 10.8 Lbs/gal brines. JP '278 differs from the present invention in that brines as high as 11 Lbs/gal density are not disclosed. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the corrosion inhibitors of JP '278 in brines of 11 Lbs/gal density, since such brines would be expected to have similar corrosive properties with brines of extremely close density, such as of 10.8 Lbs/gal.

- 9. Claim 23 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- 10. Applicants arguments have been considered, but are not deemed fully persuasive.

  Contrary to applicants arguments Mishra and Beazley both teach brines having a density within the specified levels of the present invention. New rejections are presented under 35 USC 102 and 103.

Application/Control Number: 09/975797

Art Unit: 1712

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tucker whose telephone number is (703) 308-0529. The examiner's normal working hours are 7:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday. If necessary SPE Robert Dawson may be contacted at 703-308-2340. For inquiries of a general nature call the receptionist at 703-308-0651. The group FAX no. is 703-872-9310. The **after final** fax no. Is 703-872-9311.

PCT-2809 May 19, 2003

PHILIP C. TUCKER ART UNIT 1712